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November 17, 2005

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: Highway 101 GAP Closure Projects – Status Report – Agenda Item 6

Executive Summary

While work is nearing completion on one segment of the Hwy 101 Gap Closure Corridor, it is due to start up on another, perhaps the most traffic sensitive efforts to be conducted to date. Staff is working diligently to assure that the construction due to start in January through the Hwy 101/580 interchange area in central San Rafael will be conducted efficiently and with the least amount of disruption, organizing major outreach efforts so residents, travelers and businesses know what to expect. For the final major segment of construction due to start a year from now over Puerto Suello Hill, staff is working to finalize design of the bike/ped path adjacent to Hwy 101 and include sound-absorbing material on the soundwalls through that segment. Staff will be giving an update to all of these efforts.

Work continues on the Highway 101 Corridor to complete the Corte Madera Creek Segment construction. TAM staff and the consultant team continue to work with Caltrans on issues regarding the Central San Rafael Segment currently out to bid. The team also continues to refine bike/ped path alignments and sound absorption options for the soundwall for the Puerto Suello Hill Segment. Details are provided below.:

Segment 2 – Corte Madera Creek

- Scheduled completion date entire project - essentially complete and open to traffic – January 15, 2006
- Sir Francis Drake Change Order Work – final negotiation with contractor underway for CCO work

Segment 3 – Central San Rafael

Project was advertised for bid on October 11, 2005. Bid opening is scheduled for December 13, 2005 with construction scheduled to start late January/early February 2006. The scheduled completion date is December 2008. If the bids come in higher than the engineer's estimate, it is anticipated that the overage will be covered with STIP funds.

Making the Most of Marin County Transportation Dollars

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Staff continues to work with Caltrans and the City of San Rafael on a public information plan for the project, which will address both the business community adjacent to the project and Highway 101 commuters. A public open house is being planned for mid-January to provide an opportunity for the businesses and community to learn more about the project and ask questions. A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for mid to late January. More details will be provided at the December 15, 2005 Board meeting.

Segment 4 – Puerto Suello Hill

Staff and the consultant team continue to refine the bike/ped path alignment, soundwall aesthetics and sound absorption options. The bike/ped alignment and soundwall options will be presented at a public meeting in mid- December which will provide an opportunity for public input. The results of this meeting will be presented at the December 15, 2005 Board meeting.

City of San Rafael – Belle Avenue Landscaping Improvements Project

The City of San Rafael received an EEMP Grant to provide landscaping along the easterly side of the east-side Highway 101 soundwall along Belle Avenue. The design of the project is in its final stages. The schedule is as follows:

- Bid advertisement - scheduled for December 2005
- Construction – scheduled for spring 2006 – approximate 2 month construction duration

Staff will continue to provide updates at future meetings of the TAM Board.